



GAME & FISH STAFF NOTES

Left to right: Paul Bultsma, Ducks Unlimited, Merle Bennett, Scott Peterson, ND Game and Fish.

Lonetree WMA Wetland Tract Dedicated to Merle O. Bennett

Merle O. Bennett, longtime outdoors conservationist, was honored September 11 with a 73-acre wetland tract dedicated in his name at the Lonetree Wildlife Management Area in Sheridan County.

The wetland will provide habitat for breeding waterfowl and brood production. An earthen embankment and water control structure will allow water level management to provide optimal habitat for mallards, pintails, gadwalls, blue-winged teal, and Canada geese.

The Merle O. Bennett Wetland is located 13 miles north of the junction of North Dakota Highways 200 and 14, then one mile west. The land is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and managed by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. The entire unit is dedicated to wildlife production.

Bennett attended Utah State University



Harold Umber

and earned his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management. He worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at numerous wildlife refuges across the United States, including Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. He also worked for the service's area office in Bismarck as a regional biologist. After retiring from the service, he has worked for Ducks Unlimited, North Dakota State Land Department, Bluestem consulting firm and the North Dakota Natural Resource Trust.

Funds for development of this wetland were made available by Ducks Unlimited, Inc., U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

New GIS Specialist

Brian Hosek joined the Game and Fish Department in mid-September as the Geographic Information Systems specialist. This is a new position established by the 2001 legislature to work primarily with developing and implementing GIS systems. Areas of interest include species management, lake contours, hunting units, and survey locations.

An Emporia State University graduate, Hosek had worked for a private engineering firm in Bismarck as a GIS analyst, where his duties included database development, spatial analysis, and map production.



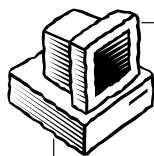
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Pollert Receives Award

Mark Pollert, district game warden, LaMoure, received the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators 2001 Officer of the Year award for North Dakota.

Each state in NASBLA selects a person for a national award, a citation and pin the officer can wear on his or her uniform. Among the criteria for receiving the award is activity in boating, such as law enforcement, education, search and rescue, outreach, and training.

Pollert excelled in all categories, according to Game and Fish boat safety coordinator Nancy Boldt. "Along with fulfilling duties in his district," Boldt said, "he is always available and eager to help other colleagues and the public."



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